

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

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TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCNAMIS,

STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION

CIA REP, TREASURY DEPT//INFO FOR MR JOHN YEO.

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 5

DATE: 9 MARCH 1974

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV MILITARY JOURNAL ADOPTS NEW MODERATE TONE TOWARD MIDDLE EAST

REF : EMBASSY BELGRADE 1072, 081002Z MAR 74, COMF

THE NEW MODERATE APPROACH TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST OF AN ARTICLE IN THE CURRENT ISSUE OF NARODNA ARMIIJA, AN IMPORTANT YUGOSLAV MILITARY JOURNAL, SUGGESTS THAT BELGRADE IS TRYING TO GET ABOARD THE PEACE BANDWAGON. AUTHORED BY AN EDITOR OF TANJUG, THE YUGOSLAV NEWS AGENCY, THE ARTICLE USES MEASURED, ALMOST SCHOLARLY LANGUAGE TO DISCUSS "A FRESH DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

IN SPEAKING APPROVINGLY OF US EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE ARTICLE CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH BELGRADE'S USUAL CRITICISM

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OF THE US ROLE. THE AUTHOR ALSO PORTRAYS GROMYKO'S SWING THROUGH THE MIDDLE EAST IN A POSITIVE, HOPEFUL LIGHT. EMBASSY BELGRADE REPORTS THAT THE ARTICLE IS LEVEL-HEADED EVEN IN ITS TREATMENT OF ISRAEL.

SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF THE OCTOBER WAR, TITO HAS FIRMLY SUPPORTED THE ARAB WORLD. NOW THAT THE SOVIETS, SYRIANS, AND THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION APPEAR TO BE MORE AMENABLE TO A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, THE YUGOSLAVS MAY FEEL THE NEED TO TAILOR THEIR STANCE. NARODNA ARMIJA, WHICH HAS OFTEN BEEN A VEHICLE FOR HARDLINERS ON THE MIDDLE EAST, BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE ARMY, WOULD BE A PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE MEANS OF ANNOUNCING A CHANGE OF LINE. E-2 IMPDET.

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